

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 096097  
ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02  
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02  
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /133 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:RAPECK:RTB  
APPROVED BY IO:CWMAYNES  
IO/UNP:GBHELMAN  
NEA/IAI:GKULICK

-----290712Z 044744 /21

R 281957Z APR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096097

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NESCO, WHO, ILO, IS

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH AVINERI ON UN ISSUES

REF: USUN 1214 (NOTAL)

1. IO ASST. SECRETARY MAYNES MET WITH ISRAEL MFA  
DIRECTOR GENERAL SHLOMO AVINERI APRIL 26 TO DISCUSS  
ISRAEL'S PROBLEMS IN THE UN AND ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.  
AVINERI TOOK A RELAXED VIEW OF SPECIALIZED AGENCY ISSUES,  
CREDITING ISRAELI/US FIRMNESS IN NAIROBI, ALONG WITH  
RESISTANCE OF AFRICAN BLOC, WITH HAVING FORCED ARABS TO  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 096097

MODERATE THEIR DEMANDS.

2. ON JERUSALEM ARCHEOLOGICAL DIGS, MAYNES NOTED THAT  
ISRAEL HAD INDICATED RELUCTANCE IN ACKNOWLEDGING  
PUBLICLY AND UNDER "PRESSURE" THAT CONTROVERSIAL EXCAV-  
ATIONS HAD STOPPED. HE ASKED IF ISRAEL COULD DO ANYTHING  
TO PROVIDE AN EXCUSE FOR UNESCO DG M'BOW TO WORK TOWARD

LIFTING SANCTIONS. MAYNES SAID ONE SUGGESTION HE HAD HEARD WAS THAT AN ISRAELI OFFICIAL MIGHT INFORM AN OFFICIAL OF A THIRD COUNTRY, WHO IN TURN COULD NOTIFY UNESCO. AVINERI CHARACTERIZED DIGS ISSUE AS "NON-PROBLEM" ABOUT WHICH DG HIMSELF WAS RELAXED. HE SAID ANY ISRAELI ANNOUNCEMENT OF TERMINATION OF DIGS COULD

BE TAKEN AS AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT THE UN HAS A RIGHT TO INTERFERE. WHILE THESE DIGS STOPPED, OTHERS WERE CONTINUING AND ISRAELI CONCESSION WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE ARABS TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THESE. FURTHERMORE, ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAD NO LEGAL MEANS OF COMPELLING ARCHEOLOGIST, OTHERWISE QUALIFIED, NOT TO RESUME EXCAVATIONS IF HE CHOSE TO DO SO.

3. ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF UNESCO EXPERTS' VISIT TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AVINERI SAID TERMS OF NAIROBI RESOLUTION WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR ISRAEL TO ACCEPT SUCH A VISIT EVEN AFTER THE ELECTIONS. BRUSHING ASIDE SUGGESTION THAT MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON COMPOSITION OF TEAM, AVINERI SAID ISSUE WAS ONE OF PRINCIPLE, WITH ISRAEL BEING ASKED TO ACCEPT INVESTIGATION AFTER CONDEMNATION. IN MORE GENERAL VEIN, MAYNES SAID USG WAS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED SO FAR IN UNESCO. ASKED FOR SUGGESTIONS, AVINERI SAID THAT BEST COURSE MIGHT BE JUST TO TRY TO CONTINUE TO "MUDDLE THROUGH" ON SUCH ISSUES AS INQUIRY AND ARCHEOLOGICAL DIGS.

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PAGE 03 STATE 096097

4. ON ILO, MAYNES SAID THAT CONGRESSMEN HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER EFFECT ON ISRAEL OF POSSIBLE US WITHDRAWAL. WHAT WOULD BE ISRAEL'S POSITION IN THIS CASE? AVINERI SAID HE DID NOT THINK US WOULD HAVE TO WITHDRAW. IF ARABS DETECT US FIRMNESS THEY WILL NOT PRESS UNACCEPTABLE RECOMMENDATIONS. AVINERI URGED THAT DURING CURRENT SERIES OF TOP-LEVEL US-ARAB CONSULTATIONS, THE US PUSH IDEA THAT ONE TANGIBLE SIGN OF ARAB WILLINGNESS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL WOULD BE FOR THEM TO STOP USING SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO TRY TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON ISRAEL. HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE EFFECTIVE.

5. AVINERI RAISED ECOSOC ISSUES, EXPRESSING HOPE THAT SOME WAY COULD BE FOUND TO BACK OFF FROM ZIONISM AS RACISM FORMULATION. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE ECHOED HERZOG'S SUGGESTION TO YOUNG (REFTEL) THAT MODERATE AFRICANS BE ENCOURAGED TO SPLIT AWAY FROM AFRICAN CAUCUS TO RESUME RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. MAYNES SAID HE HAD NOT HAD TIME

TO DISCUSS THIS IDEA WITH YOUNG, BUT EXPRESSED OPINION THAT ORCHESTRATED ATTEMPT TO SPLIT AFRICANS MIGHT HAVE OPPOSITE EFFECT OF BRINGING MODERATES AND RADICALS BACK TOGETHER AGAIN. ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AVINERI SAID THAT QUESTION OF SOVIET JEWRY AS WELL AS JEWS IN SYRIA WOULD BE BROUGHT UP AT ECOSOC (THOUGH NOT BY ISRAEL), AND SAID IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF US COULD SPEAK OUT.

6. AVINERI ALSO REITERATED HERZOG'S REQUEST THAT THE US NOT RESPOND IN WRITING TO THE PALESTINE RIGHTS COMMITTEE LETTER (REFTEL).

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PORO, IS, WHO, ILO, UNESCO, ECOSOC, (AVINERI, SHLOMO)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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